

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1151 without my signature.

This bill would require all general acute care hospitals to adopt, as part of their Injury and Illness Prevention Programs, a patient protection and health care worker back injury prevention plan that includes a “safe patient handling policy.”

SB 1151 is similar to measures that I have vetoed over the last four years. This bill is unnecessary as current laws and regulations are in place to address the workplace health and safety needs of health care workers. Existing statutes are flexible and allow employers to exercise discretion in determining what combination of lift teams and equipment is necessary to have an effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger